

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this divisional application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended): A process for preparing sugar-free hard-coated comestibles comprising the addition of a liquid coating syrup to ~~the~~ a moving mass of ~~the~~ cores for said comestible in a rotating pan and forming at least one layer of the hard coating about said core characterised characterized in that the liquid coating syrup is comprising comprises a mixture of sorbitol and erythritol wherein the dry substance of the mixture is comprising comprises between 1% to 50% w/w erythritol.

Claim 8 (original): A process for preparing a sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 7, wherein the application of the layers is repeated up to 100 times.

Claim 9 (new): A process for preparing the sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 7, wherein said moving mass of cores comprises edible, chewable and/or pharmaceutical cores.

Claim 10 (new): A process for preparing the sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 7, wherein the hard coating consists of from 1 to 100 layers.

Claim 11 (new): A process for preparing the sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 7, wherein said mixture comprises at least 5% w/w erythritol.

Claim 12 (new): A process for preparing the sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 7, wherein said mixture comprises from 5% to 45% w/w erythritol.

Claim 13 (new): A process for preparing the sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 7, wherein said mixture comprises from 20% to 45% w/w erythritol.